

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 5-19 are pending in this application.

Claims 5-19 are rejected.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended.

Claims 5-16 are cancelled.

Claims 20-36 are new. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Allowable Matter

The Office Action states that claims 15 and 16 would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting this allowable matter. Furthermore, the Office Action states that claims 9, 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Likewise the Office Action states that claims 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

The Applicant has added new claims 20-36 which include the above allowable matter. Specifically, new independent claim 20 contains the disclosures of previously presented independent claim 5 and dependent claim 11. New dependent claims 21-25 are directly or ultimately dependent upon independent claim 20. Dependent claims 21-25 contain the material disclosed in previously presented dependent claims 6-10, respectively.

In addition, new independent claim 26 has been added to include the material disclosed in previously presented independent claim 5 and dependent claim 9. New

dependent claims 27-31 are directly or ultimately dependent upon new independent claim 26. New dependent claims 27-29 include the material disclosed in previously presented claims 6-8, respectively. New dependent claim 30 includes the material disclosed in previously presented claim 11. New dependent claim 31 includes the material disclosed in previously presented claim 10.

New independent claim 32 includes the material from previously presented independent claim 5 and dependent claims 9 and 10. New dependent claims 33-36 are dependent upon independent claim 32. New dependent claims 33-35 include the material disclosed in previously presented claims 6-8, respectively. New dependent claim 36 includes the material disclosed in previously presented dependent claim 11.

Rejection of Claims 5-11, 13, and 17-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action states that claims 5, 13, and 17 make an incorrect statement that the extension tab is infinitely adjustable. The Office Action states that the extension tab is a finite dimension and the adhesive strip has a finite dimension and therefore there are a finite number of adjustments. Furthermore, the Office Action states that claims 6, 13, and 18 are rejected because of the use of the term "Velcro," since Velcro is a trademark.

The Office Action states that claims 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Applicant has amended claim 17 to include customizable adjustments based upon the longitudinal dimensions of the extension tab and the adhesive strip. Thus, the number of adjustments is proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. Since independent claim 17 contains customizable

adjustments based on the above dimensions, the Applicant respectfully maintains that claim 17 has overcome the §112 rejection and should be allowed.

In addition, the Office Action states that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 18 is dependent upon independent claim 17, and therefore includes all the limitations of independent claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended to include customizable adjustments based upon the longitudinal dimensions of the extension tab and adhesive strip. Thus, the number of adjustments is proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. Further, claim 18 has been amended as recommended by the Examiner to remove the term Velcro, which is a trademark, and use the term hook and loop fastener. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that independent claim 17 and dependent claim 18 have overcome the §112 rejections. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of dependent claim 18.

Furthermore, the Office Action states that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 19 is dependent upon independent claim 17, and therefore includes all the limitations of independent claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended to include customizable adjustments based upon the longitudinal dimensions of the extension tab and the adhesive strip. Thus, the number of adjustments is proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that independent claim 17 has overcome the §112 rejection. Since dependent claim 19 is dependent upon independent claim 17, the Applicant respectfully requests that dependent claim 19 be allowed.

Also, the Office Action states that claims 7-11 and 19 are rejected under §112 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Applicant has added new claims 20-

36 which include the subject matter of claims 7-11 and 19, but are dependent upon a new claim which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully maintains that claims 20-36 are not subject to the §112 rejection made to claims 7-11 and 19, and claims 20-36 are allowable.

The Applicant has added new independent claim 20, which includes the limitations of claim 5 and the allowable matter of claim 11. Also, claim 20 has been written to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claim 5 for stating there are infinite number of adjustments. Instead, claim 20 states that the extension tab is connected to the body by an adhesive strip to provide customizable adjustments between the adhesive strip and extension tab. The customizable adjustments are created by the longitudinal dimensions of the adhesive strip and the extension tab. Thus, the number of adjustments is proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. The Applicant respectfully maintains that new claim 20 is not subject to the §112 rejection made to claims 5, 13, and 17, and that claim 20 is allowable.

New dependent claims 21-25 are dependent upon new independent claim 20 and therefore include the limitations of independent claim 20. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 21-25 are allowable.

The Applicant has added new independent claim 26, which includes the limitations of claim 5 and the allowable matter of claim 9. Also, claim 26 has been written to overcome the §112 rejection claim 5 for stating there are infinite number of adjustments. Instead, claim 26 states that the extension tab is connected to the body by an adhesive strip to provide customizable adjustments between the adhesive strip and extension tab. The customizable adjustments are created by the longitudinal dimensions of the adhesive strip and the extension tab. Thus, the customizable

adjustments are proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. The Applicant respectfully maintains that new claim 26 is not subject to the §112 rejection made to claims 5, 13, and 17, and that claim 26 is allowable.

New dependent claims 27-31 are dependent upon new independent claim 26 and therefore include all of the limitations of independent claim 26. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 27-31 are allowable.

The Applicant has added new independent claim 32, which includes the limitations of claim 5 and the allowable matter of claims 9 and 10. Also, claim 32 has been written to overcome the §112 rejection of claim 5 for stating there are infinite number of adjustments. Instead, claim 32 states that the extension tab is connected to the body by an adhesive strip to provide customizable adjustments between the adhesive strip and extension tab. The customizable adjustments are created by the longitudinal dimensions of the adhesive strip and the extension tab. Thus, the number of adjustments is proportional to the longitudinal length of the adhesive strip and extension tab with respect to one another. The Applicant respectfully maintains that new claim 32 is not subject to the §112 rejection made to claims 5, 13, and 17, and that claim 32 is allowable.

New dependent claims 33-36 are dependent upon new independent claim 32 and therefore include all the limitations of independent claim 32. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 33-36 are allowable.

Furthermore, the Applicant has added new dependents claim 21, 27, and 33 which states that the adhesive strip is a hook and loop fastener. New claims 21, 27, and 33 include the limitations of claim 6, but use the term hook and loop fastener instead of the trademark term "Velcro." Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains

that claims 21, 27, and 33 are not subject to the §112 rejection made to claims 6, 13, and 18, and claims 21, 27, and 33 are allowable.


CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks that amended claims 17-19 and new claims 20-36, as presented, are allowable since they have been amended to overcome the rejections and/or to include allowable subject matter.

Since all claims have been placed in condition for allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of the subject amendment and allowance of the Application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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